

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/622,331	CORDERY ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Edward R. Cosimano	3629	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment of 3/1/05 and interview of 3/10/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 18 July 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

AD

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1. Applicant's claim for the benefit of an earlier filing data under 35 U.S.C. § 120 is acknowledged.

2. The specification and drawings have not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification or drawings. Applicant should note the requirements of 37 CFR § 1.52, 37 CFR § 1.74, § 1.75, § 1.84(o,p(5)), § 1.121(a)-1.121(f) & § 1.121(h)-1.121(i).

SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW

3. Representative Malandra argued that as taught by Sansone et al (5,019,991) any correction to the accounting registers is performed by the mailer, since the processing of the system of Sansone et al ('991) is performed by the mailer before the mail is inducted into the postal infrastructure, that is the carrier service.

3.1 The examiner agreed with this interpretation but argued that the prior to Sansone et al ('991) the Postal infrastructure would verify that a batch of mail does meet all of the required criteria for induction/acceptance by the Postal infrastructure and hence the postal infrastructure would determine if an adjustment to the postage applied to the batch of mail is necessary. It is further noted that the batch of mail if rejected would be returned to the mailer for the placement of additional postage on the items of mail with in the batch of mail.

3.2 To counter this argument, Representative Malandra argued that in regard to:

A) system/machine claim 1, the "postal infrastructure" is required to send a message to the meter so that the meter may account for the determined adjusted postage value, whereas in Sansone et al ('991), the adjustment of the accounting registers is not performed in response to a message from the "Postal Infrastructure".

B) process/method claim 4, the "postal infrastructure" is required to send a message to the meter relating to the detection of the "occurrence of the planned event", whereas in Sansone et al ('991), the "Postal Infrastructure" does not send a message to the meter after the item of mail has been inducted as required by the sequence of steps as set forth in claim 4.

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C) process/method claim 7, the “postal infrastructure” is required to send a message to the meter so that the meter may account for the determined actual workshare discount, whereas in Sansone et al ('991), the adjustment of the accounting registers is not performed in response to a message after the item of mail has been inducted as required by the sequence of steps as set forth in claim 7.

4. An Examiner's Amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 C.F.R. § 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

In the claims:

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1 . (Original): A closed loop postage metering system comprising:

a meter provider infrastructure including a meter database;

a postal infrastructure in operative communication with the meter provider infrastructure, the postal infrastructure including equipment and processes for submission, processing, transporting and delivery of a mail piece;

a mailer system in operative communication with the meter provider infrastructure and the postal infrastructure, the mailer system including a postage meter, the postage meter accounting for and printing postage value for the mail piece and printing on the mail piece information identifying services requested for the mail piece;

wherein the postal infrastructure determines an adjusted postage value for the mail piece based on the occurrence of events related to the requested services during the processing the mail piece; and

wherein the postal infrastructure sends the adjusted postage value to the meter for the meter to account for the adjusted postage value.

2. (Original): The system of claim 1 wherein the meter provider infrastructure includes an events database and the postal infrastructure includes a planned events database and a transaction database used during the processing of the mail items.

3. (Original): The system of claim 1 wherein the requested services are conditioned on the occurrence of at least one certain event.

4. (Original): A method for processing mail items, the method comprising the steps of:
creating a mail piece;

creating a list of planned events associated with the mail piece;

creating parameters and decision functions associated with the planned events;

printing on the mail piece by a postage meter mail piece information including a unique identification of the mail piece, evidence of postage payment identification of the postage meter and services requested for the mailpiece;

inducting the mail piece into a postal infrastructure;

scanning the mail piece to determine if one of the planned events has occurred;

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if a planned event has occurred obtaining the mail piece information with sensors in the postal infrastructure, the mail piece information including identification of the postage meter; and sending a message to the meter relating to the occurrence of the planned event, the message including the mail piece information.

5. (Previously presented): The method of claim 4 comprising the further step of: accounting by the meter for the occurrence of the planned event.

6. (Previously presented): The method of claim 4 comprising the further steps of:

if a planned event has not occurred obtaining the mail piece information with sensors in the postal infrastructure, the mail piece information including identification of the postage meter;

sending a message to the meter relating to the non-occurrence of the planned event; and accounting by the meter for the non-occurrence of the planned event.

7. (Currently amended): A method for managing postal workshare discounts, the method comprising the steps of:

prepare a batch of mail in a manner intended for the batch of mail to qualify for certain postal workshare discounts;

applying at least one of a unique mail piece identification or unique batch identification on each mail piece in the batch of mail;

inducting the batch of mail for postal processing by a postal infrastructure;

accounting in a meter for payment for the batch of mail based on an estimated workshare discount and submitting the payment;

determining during the postal processing the actual workshare discount that the batch of mail is entitled to; and

sending a correction discount amount to the meter to update the accounting in the meter.

4.1 Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given in a telephone interview with representative Malandra on 10 March 2005.

5. The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance:

A) the prior art, for example, Sansone et al (5,019,991) discloses that in order to lessen the likely hood that the Post Office would reject a batch of mail that has been processed with a postage value based on an estimated workshare discount, the mailer would process the batch of mail to certify/verify the correct postage for the batch of mail has been applied and if not would perform any necessary correction or corrections to the accounting registers of the mailer's postage meter before the mail is inducted into the postal infrastructure, that is the carrier service.

B) however the prior art does not teach or suggest in regard to:

(1) system/machine claim 1, that the "postal infrastructure" is required to send a message to the mailer's postage meter so that the mailer's postage meter may account for the determined adjusted postage value. Claims 2 & 3 are allowable for the same reason.

(2) process/method claim 4, the "postal infrastructure" is required to send a message to the meter relating to the detection of the "occurrence of the planned event" after the item of mail has been inducted as required by the sequence of steps as set forth in claim 4. Claims 5 & 6 are allowable for the same reason.

C) process/method claim 7, the "postal infrastructure" is required to send a message to the meter so that the meter may account for the determined actual workshare discount after the item of mail has been inducted as required by the sequence of steps as set forth in claim 7.

5.1 Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably **accompany** the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.".

6. Response to applicant's arguments.

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6.1 All rejections and objections of the previous Office action not repeated or modified and repeated here in have been over come by applicant's last response.


7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edward Cosimano whose telephone number is (703) 305-9783 (after 13 April 2005 (571) 272-6802). The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 7:30am to 6:00pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss, can be reached on (703)-308-2702 (after 13 April 2005 (571) 272-6812). Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

7.1 The fax phone number for UNOFFICIAL/DRAFT FAXES is (703) 746-7240.

7.2 The fax phone number for OFFICIAL FAXES is (703) 872-9306.

7.3 The fax phone number for AFTER FINAL FAXES is (703) 872-9306.

03/10/05


Edward R. Cosimano
Primary Examiner A.U. 3629